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Tri-Cities workshop promotes job safety for young workers

TUMWATER – A workshop scheduled for Sept. 15 in the Tri-Cities area will help local restaurant managers prevent on-the-job injuries to young workers. Teen workers are injured twice as often as adults, causing pain and suffering for young workers and increasing costs for employers due to lost productivity and workers' compensation expenses.

"Supervising for Safety" features Mary Miller, child labor specialist with the Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), and Larry Dittman, a representative of the Washington Restaurant Association (WRA). L&I and the restaurant association are sponsoring a series of these workshops statewide.

The Tri-Cities workshop will be presented twice on Wednesday, Sept. 15, with the first session running from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and the second from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Both will be held at the L&I office in Kennewick, 4310 W. 24th St. Admission is free.

To register, contact Mary Miller, 360-902-6041 or mmar235@LNI.wa.gov, or Deb Loomis of the WRA, 1-800-225-7166, ext. 105. Space is limited, but on-site registration will be available 30 minutes before each session.

The workshop will inform restaurant owners and managers about how to prevent slips and falls, cuts, bruises, burns and sprains. Those injuries account for more than 85 percent of all injuries in the restaurant industry, which employs up to half of all teenage workers. The workshops also cover teen labor laws, as well as general injury-prevention strategies for workers of all ages.

If you're a young person with a job, employ teen workers, or are the parent of a teen worker, you can find more information about teen worker safety and regulations covering teen workers at Teenworkers.LNI.wa.gov.

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For media information: Ron Langley, L&I, 360-902-5405 or lanx235@LNI.wa.gov, or Janet Best-Hoyt, WRA, 1-800-225-7166 or janet@wrahome.com. Mary Miller is available for print, TV and radio interviews.

Radio broadcast version (:30)

Teenage workers are injured on the job twice as often as adults. Preventing those injuries is the goal of a workshop in Tri-Cities sponsored by the Department of Labor and Industries and the Washington Restaurant Association.

The workshop on Sept. 15 will teach restaurant managers, teens and their parents how to prevent common injuries suffered by young workers.

For more information on the free workshops, call 1-800-225-7166.